



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TO: All Planning and Development Services Department Customers

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION BULLETIN 176**
Plumbing Installation/Repairs Requiring Tunneling

DATE: April 14, 2010

This information bulletin is intended to clarify the safety provisions regarding under-slab plumbing installations/repairs that may require tunneling to accomplish plumbing drain line repairs, replacements or re-routes.

The Planning and Development Services Department (PDSD) performs inspections of plumbing installation/repairs beneath residential and commercial existing slabs and buildings. It is imperative that these inspections be performed in a safe environment. Because of safety concerns, the following minimum safety measures were established by the PDSD in 1996 that pertain to these required tunnel inspections of plumbing drain line repairs, re-routes and replacements beneath residential and commercial slabs and buildings. These requirements are based on the minimum OSHA safety measures referenced as follows:

- OSHA Safety Handbook, page 11
- OSHA CFR Title 29, Part 1910.146
- OSHA CFR Title 29, Part 1926.800

A summary of these previous and current requirements are as follows:

1. The tunnel and entry to the tunnel shall be of adequate size to allow the inspector to perform a thorough and safe inspection.
2. Plumber or representative must be on site at tunnel entrance during inspection in case of any emergency.
3. The tunnel shall be provided with adequate lighting.
4. Fans shall be in place to provide adequate ventilation.
5. Moisture barriers on tunnel floor (i.e., plastic cover) shall be provided, minimum 6 mil thickness.
6. All necessary Electrical equipment shall be connected through Ground Fault circuit protection.

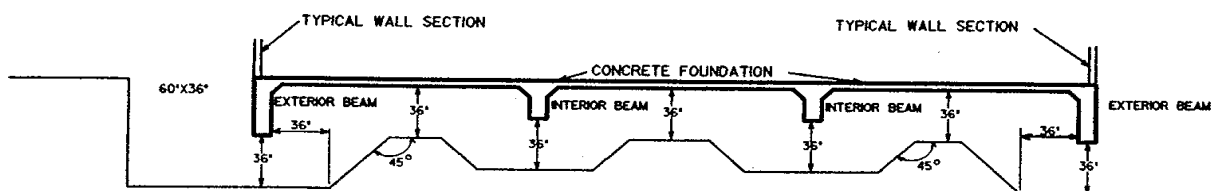
The following detail drawing for tunnel jobs will help clarify the notice dated December 1, 1995, which was originally sent to all of the City's registered Plumbing Contractors at that time.

Plumbing contractor projects that require the use of these tunnel jobs shall meet or exceed the requirements listed in the diagram.

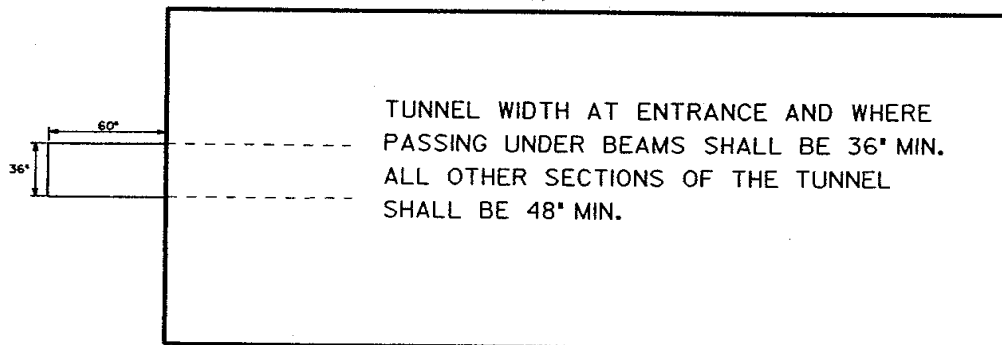
Tunnels that have a minimum of 5 feet of head room below the slab (not the beams) can remain 3 feet wide throughout the tunnel; otherwise the tunnel shall remain 4 feet wide and only reduce to 3 feet wide under the beams. Any or other obstructions in or crossing the tunnel shall also be require to be excavated to 36" of clearance below or above or 36" to 48" of clearance to the side of the obstruction to provide proper clearances for access.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this information bulletin please feel free to contact David Rohde, Plumbing Inspections Supervisor at (210) 207-78279.

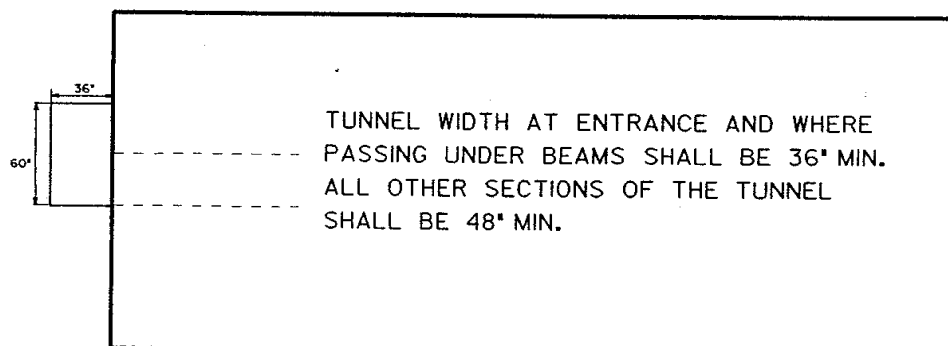
FOUNDATION VIEW SECTION



SIDE VIEW



TOP VIEW



TOP VIEW